

6
FRENCH FRATERNITY

AND

FRENCH PROTECTION,

AS PROMISED TO

I R E L A N D,

AND AS EXPERIENCED BY OTHER NATIONS.

ADDRESSED TO ALL RANKS AND DESCRIPTIONS
IN THIS KINGDOM,

BY A FRIEND TO THE PEOPLE.

EIGHTEENTH EDITION.

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1798.

FRENCH FRATERNITY

FRENCH (ROYAL) CLOTH

AS PRESENTED TO

ARCE



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PRESENTED TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM

BY THE

FRANCIS & TAYLOR

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FRANCIS & TAYLOR

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DOUBT

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1797

French Fraternity and French Protection,

&c. &c.

IF ever any thing deserved to be well weighed, and considered by the people of this kingdom, it is the subject of the following address. It concerns them as men, as christians, as fathers and husbands, and as lovers of their country; if they are led astray on it they are ruined without reprieve; if they see it in a right light, it may not be yet too late to save themselves. They are, therefore, most earnestly exhorted, let their present opinions be what they way, to read, at least, what is here presented to them, or to listen to others who will read it to them; and it ought to be a most sacred duty with every man who has a feeling of humanity, or a regard for the public peace and happiness, to see that it be universally diffused, and universally read.

The unhappy state of this kingdom is felt and lamented by every one; and every one fears that it may daily become worse and worse. Among the means that have been most successfully employed to bring us to this situation, and that has chiefly misled the people, is the favourable light in which the French Nation is represented to them. They are taught to consider them as the deliverers of Europe; as the protectors of all that are oppressed, or will make a common cause with them in redressing wrongs, and promoting universal benevolence. They are told that to be received into their friendship, and blessed with their protection, is an immediate release from all the sufferings and inconveniences complained of under other governments, and that wherever they plant, their tree of liberty a complete equality is instantly established, all grievances are redressed, there are no longer either rents, tythes, taxes, or exactions; they who are rich become poor, and the poor rich, and all is enjoyment and happiness among the lower orders;—all this they are told, and all this they very generally believe. Such an insatiation, however extraordinary, is now new amongst us. The slightest acquaintance with the history of Ireland, will shew that there never existed a more credulous race than the good people of this land. They will believe any tale that is told them; they will listen to any man, whether native or foreigner, who has an interest in deceiving and inflaming them, and follow any leader who can have

the art to work on their passions and their prejudices, and avail himself of their divisions. Thus they became an easy prey to the Danes, and suffered all the miseries of which the tradition is still preserved amongst them, until one of their own native princes effected their deliverance. Thus they opened their country to the English, and thus, when they had incorporated themselves with that people, and agreed to become one with them, they converted their green fields (to talk in the modern cant) into a continued scene of internal war and civil discord. Whether they gratified the ambition or revenge of their own native chieftains, or of the rebellious English Lords, or of whatever pretender to the throne they forwarded the views, whether a York or a Lancaster, a Warbeck or a Simnel, it was all the same to them, they were sure to be duped, and as surely were left to pay the price of their folly. Thus too, in late days they were duped by the Spaniards, affecting kindred with them, and working upon their religious prejudices in order to facilitate their own views against England, and their scheme of universal conquest, by which most of the principal families in Munster were reduced to beggary. And thus, in Lewis the fourteenth's and James the second's days, they were the dupes of the French aiming at the same objects, and, when their turn was served, were equally abandoned to their wretched fate and the fruits of their credulity.

This last visitation was so severe, and the impression of it so effectual and lasting, that for a long time they were deaf to all the insinuations, and proof against all the artifices as well of French agents as of domestic incendiaries: they even remained universally quiet and peaceful when England herself shewed pretty general symptoms of rebellion under the reign of the two first George's, but alas! the sons of that generation are not equally wise; they have forgotten the lesson of their fathers' experience, and, what is still more deplorable, they are blind to the experience of their own day; an experience fortunate for them, if they would but profit by their good fortune, acquired at the expence of others, and costing them nothing but a little pains to enquire, and a resolution not to listen to what is told them by secret and midnight agents, who may invent any thing they please to mislead them, but to attend to facts that are acted in the face of day, and before all Europe, and to receive information coming to them with its proofs.

For these four or five years past they have been listening to those who promised them golden days, and riches, and ease, from insurrection and conspiracies, and French principles, to be supported by French money and French power. What are they who have been the dupes of these idle tales the better for having

so done? Let them compare their present state with what they were, before they renounced their industrious pursuits, and, from honest pains-taking men, obedient to law, and attached to their religion, have suffered themselves to be changed into midnight conspirators, into murderers, and assassins, and house-breakers, having neither the fear of God or man before their eyes. Will not this comparison dispose them at least to pause for a while, and enquire whether they may not have been imposed on; whether the fine promises that have been made to them are likely to be realized, should they go on in encouraging a French army to land on this Island? Whether the French are those great friends and mighty deliverers, to all who receive them and fraternize with them? The way of this is plain and open to them. They have only to learn how the French have treated other nations to whom they made the same promises, as their agents are now making to the Irish people, and then let them judge for themselves.

This method has been followed in his own country by a plain, sensible American, Mr. Harper, a member of the Congress; a strenuous and tried friend of true liberty. The same indefatigable pains that have been practised with such success in this country by French emissaries and their abettors, have been practising in America for the last six years. But America has had too sad and too recent experience of one revolution, to be very forward in encouraging a new one. They are a sober, a wise, an industrious and religious people. They know too well the blessings of legal government, and the happy effect of good order, secured by well regulated freedom, and by laws, made in the fear of God, and on the ground-work of justice and right, to wish to have any thing to do with what the French chuse to call their government and their constitution.

It is true, as Mr. Harper, allows, that when France first shewed a determination to assert her liberty and shake off the yoke under which it had been so long her pride to crouch, "the heart of America beat high in her cause. Even her crimes, her follies and her excesses," he says, "were overlooked. Where they could not be pardoned they were palliated: France was considered as fighting in the cause of freedom and humanity; and an end so excellent afforded much consolation for the means which she often employed."

This gentleman has lived to see the mischief of thus entering into a compromise with crimes and enormities that shock nature; of thus looking, with something like satisfaction and enjoyment, over the miseries and sufferings of the human race, because we expect to find some contingent good at the end

of

of the bloody career. In their early "enthusiasm," as he expresses it, they admitted a resident from the new government amongst them, and from the moment their peace, and that happiness which they had purchased by so much blood and treasure was destroyed.

From the ambassador of a foreign state, residing with an independent, though friendly nation, he rose by degrees to affect a controul over all her counsels, and the mastery in all her imperial proceedings; and this he attempted with such haughtiness and insult, and was so insolently supported in his audacious proceedings by the French government, that the spirit of America at length was roused to indignation. An universal hatred to the French name succeeded to the general exultation, with which Mr. Harper assures us, the victories of republican France were received, and her disasters mourned by her American brethren.

The whole of this revolution in the sentiments of America, and the steps that have led to it, are forcibly displayed by Mr. Harper; and it is to justify his countrymen, and to encourage them in their resolution to assert their rights and their independence, that he has published a pamphlet on the plan here alluded to; it is a statement of facts known throughout Europe, collected from undoubted records, and accounts published by the French themselves, or by the people concerned in the events: the same plan shall be adopted in the following pages.

HOLLAND.

* In the winter of 1794, the French armies having over-run Belgium, and being favoured by the intense cold which covered the rivers with ice, marched into Holland on the 20th of January. A few days after their arrival, the French commissioners with the army published a proclamation, in which they told the Dutch, "In the midst of war we consider you as our friends and allies; it is under this name that we enter our country; we seek not to terrify, but to inspire you with confidence; it is but a few years since a tyrannic conqueror prescribed you laws; we abolish them, and restore you freedom; we come not to make you slaves; the French nation shall preserve to you your independence, personal safety shall be secured and property protected."

All this was very friendly, and the Dutch very good-naturedly believed it, more especially as the French generals when they were approaching the country had constantly repeated the same thing. They however soon found their mistake.

Seven

* See Mr. Harper's address.

Seven days after this first proclamation, the same commissioners (having now been admitted into all the towns with their troops, and obtained complete possession of the country) published a second; in which they "formally invited;" the Dutch government to furnish the army within one month, with the following supplies, viz. two hundred thousand quintals of wheat; five hundred thousand rations of hay; two hundred thousand rations of straw; five hundred thousand bushels of corn; one hundred and fifty thousand pair of shoes; twenty thousand pair of boots; twenty thousand coats and waistcoats; forty thousand pair of breeches; one hundred and fifty thousand pair of pantaloons; two hundred thousand shirts; fifty thousand hats; and besides all this, twelve thousand oxen, to be delivered in two months. This requisition they call "*their amicable and friendly intentions*," which they flatter themselves the citizens and the government will shew equal zeal to second; and in the execution whereof, they hope that "the slow forms of ordinary administration, and all doubts about the want of authority which impede the operation, will be carefully set aside." And they give the Dutch to understand, that in case the articles were not furnished, they should be exacted by force.

It was now too late to hesitate, the French had crossed the rivers, their army was in the country, and the Dutch had opened their gates to these "restorers of their liberty." They were therefore obliged instantly to comply, and on the same day they addressed a proclamation to the people, informing them of the demand, and directing them to furnish their respective proportions. In this proclamation, they remind the people of the "absolute necessity of furnishing the supplies without the smallest delay; and of the distress to which they must expose themselves if they manifest the least unwillingness, or even procrastination."

This, however, was only the beginning: They subsisted their armies in Holland during the winter, took every thing they wanted, and paid in depreciated * assignats at par; and finally they forced the Dutch to form an offensive and defensive alliance with them against England for ever. The treaty was signed on the 15th of May 1795. It obliges the Dutch to cede to France, "as indemnities," two of their most important frontier towns with the adjoining territories, and one of their provinces; to admit French garrisons in case of war in that quarter, into three other of their strongest frontier towns; to admit a French garrison both in peace and war into one of their principal sea-ports; to give France the free

* Scraps of paper which they substituted for money, without any fund to pay them off, in which they differ from our Bank notes.

free navigation of one of their principal rivers; to employ half their forces in carrying on the present campaign under the command of French generals; and finally, to pay France as a further indemnity for the expences of the war, one hundred millions of livres equal to twenty-five millions of dollars *, in cash, or bills of exchange in foreign countries.

In addition to this, it has lately happened from the statement made to the Dutch government by a committee of finance, that for fourteen months then last, the Dutch had paid two millions of dollars per month, amounting in the whole to twenty-eight millions for the support of the French armies.

To these two sums add the value of the first contribution, which was exacted in kind, and they amount at least to fifty-five millions of collars, upwards of eight-millions English. Of this enormous sum have the Dutch been plundered by France, under the name of amity and alliance, in less than two years, in addition to the immense amount of assignats they have been forced to receive, to the surrender of a whole province, of their five strongest frontier towns, and of a principal sea-port, and to the employment of one half of their troops in the service of France.

In return for all this, the French have driven away the Stadtholder, and changed the government. They did not suffer the Dutch, however, to adopt one to their own mind; a convention was called for that purpose; a great majority of which was in favour of a federal republic. The minority having opposed this plan in vain, sent two of their members to Paris to obtain the interference of the French government. The French government did interfere, and the majority was forced to yield. The plan of government which the great majority had favoured, was now rejected, and a different form, more suitable to the views of France, was imposed on the nation †.

The Dutch also obtained, in addition to all these proofs of friendship, an offensive and defensive war with France against England; in which they have already lost all their rich possessions in the East Indies, the Cape of Good Hope, a great part of their fleet, and the remains of their trade.

The *easy conditions* granted to the Dutch were complained of in the French Convention, and it was alledged that the commissioners had not drawn from Holland all the advantages that the republic had a right to expect. The commissioners justified themselves

* Upwards of four millions English.

† The names of the deputies who went to France are Van Vicleade and Hooft. They afterwards published a letter, in which they avow the affair and boast of it. See *Gazette of the United States*. April 25, 1797.

themselves by alledging that it would have been *impolitic* to demand harder conditions *at first*; because in that case the Dutch might have been driven to *resistance* †; and thus we see openly avowed and approved the system of coaxing a nation into their power, under the pretext of rendering it services, and then plundering and oppressing it without bounds or remorse, under pretext of receiving a reward for those services.

What the commissioners thought it would be impolitic to attempt at first, circumstances have since enabled them to carry to the utmost extent of their wishes. The appearances of fraternity worked exactly as they expected. The infatuated Dutch yielded to encroachment after encroachment, menace after menace, insult after insult, until the French Directory had gained the point they aimed at; and then the very men who had been the most active in expelling the Prince of Orange, and delivering the country into the hands of the French commissaries and generals, were taken up without notice, condemned without trial, and either thrown into prison or driven into banishment by their dear friends and deliverers; and thus their once happy and flourishing country, that had so nobly withstood the armies of France, when those armies threatened to be as formidable to Europe as they now are, and gloriously maintained her state and her independence against French power, has fallen an easy prey to French dissimulation and French perfidy. Holland has dwindled into a paltry province of an upstart foreign republic, and exists only to minister to its wants and increase its plunder.

FLANDERS*.

The French entered this unfortunate country under repeated and solemn promises of protection and freedom. No sooner had they obtained possession by the success of their arms, and the favour of the inhabitants, who were foolish enough to confide in their promises, than they put every article of property which could be of use to their armies into requisition, and compelled the people to receive payment in depreciated assignats at par †.

They next levied immense pecuniary contributions on all the towns. They ordered measures to be taken for compelling the people to exchange their money for assignats at par ‡. They placed the country under the government of military commissioners. Finding

† See the report made to the National Convention by Carnot, February 18, 1795; in which this whole affair is stated, and the means of resistance that Holland might have used had she been assailed under any other appearances than those of fraternity, are pointed out.

* See Mr. Harper's address.

‡ Without any discount; penny for penny.

Finding that a majority of the convention which they had assembled under the pretext of making the people free, were adverse to their views, they dissolved this convention by force, though freely chosen by the people, and this for the express purpose, to use the words of one of their commissioners, "of raising up the *minority*, "and destroying or counterbalancing the power of an *anti-patriotic majority*."

Having thus offered "liberty and protection" to the Belgians, having thus "broken their chains," and "released them from the "yoke of their ancient tyrants," they proceeded to seize and confiscate for their own use, the whole property of the clergy in Belgium, to the amount of more than two hundred and fifty millions of dollars. This robbery, which at first was eagerly encouraged by many possessors of lay property, was soon extended to all the other classes; and all are now involved in it. The military government, and contributions levied at the point of the bayonet still go on in this liberated country; and we every day read in their gazettes of parties of horse being sent to seize the provisions of such farmers as neglect to bring them in at the orders of the commissioners.

I T A L Y.

To the people of Italy, the French when they invaded it, also promised liberty*; they even carried on for some time the farce of a convention, at which General Buonaparte sent one of his officers with a detachment of troops to preside. Having, by these means, induced these simple people to assist them against their own government, they proceeded in their armed treaties with the Pope, to stipulate and bargain that the provinces that belonged to him should not be made free, but be made over to France, and in the mean time they treated the subjects of the ecclesiastical states, to whom they had promised freedom, as a conquered people; they plundered the churches; ransacked the cities; pillaged every part of the country by enormous contributions, which they levied on every description of the inhabitants; compelled the militia to join their armies, and put French garrisons in most of their strong towns, forcing them to pay for their support. At length, when the good Pope, anxious to avoid giving the most distant pretext for infringing the peace he had concluded with them, (knowing that they only wanted such a pretext to begin their usual work of carnage and rapine) could not be driven into any act of open hostility against them, either by the ill treatment of his person, the plunder of his most valuable effects, or the oppressive exactions of money to the amount of
more

* See Mr. Harper's address.

more than a million sterling, they threw off the mask all at once. Under pretext of a riot raised by themselves by means of their ambassador and his train, in which one of their generals was accidentally killed, they seized the venerable old man, marched an army into his capital, stripped him of all his dominions, and threw him into one of his prisons.* As for the people, deprived of all means of defending the person of their sovereign, or supporting their own independence, they are obliged to acquiesce in a farce of their restoration to liberty, while in fact, they are bound hands and feet at the mercy of the Directory, and are silently, though indignantly waiting to know to which of the neighbouring states their territory is to be annexed by their sovereigns; or to what new master they are to be handed over, like so many slaves, or like stock made over to a new purchaser, as the territories and the subjects of Venice have been.

V E N I C E.

This once powerful republic, adds to the examples of French dissimulation and French perfidy. They began by corrupting a party of her citizens, who clamoured for fraternising with them, and assisted them in destroying the old Government, but this they had no sooner done, than regardless of all the promises they had made to that party, they openly and barefacedly plundered the wretched state, which they pretended to come to save for its own people, of all that remained of its ancient power. They seized on its arsenal, its docks, its fleets; they plundered it of all the valuable productions of art, on which it so justly prided itself, and in their treaty with the Emperor made over its inhabitants to the House of Austria, without troubling themselves in the smallest degree with the remonstrances of the party who had favoured their interests.

Such was their protection while with them, and on the departure of their armies from their state, they took care to give her a last proof of fraternity. Every stratagem was practised by them to extort the little money that was left among the wretched inhabitants. General Serrurier made a demand of thirty thousand silver ducats from the corporation of gold and silver-smiths, for having guarded their shops from being pillaged, and one hundred and fifty thousand silver ducats from the municipality, for having made it a municipality; and with this plunder, and what re-
mained

* Since these sheets went to press, his flight has been connived at, and this unoffending man, respectable, if for nothing else, yet for the innocence of his life, and the sweetness of his manners, is wandering from place to place a wretched exile, for no other reason than that he was the head of the church of Rome, and a sovereign prince reigning over a willing people.

mained of valuable pieces of art, particularly four fine statues of Horfes,* which they took down and embarked amidst the murmurs of the people, they sailed on board the Venetian Fleet, and left the deluded nation in a state to think themselves happy even in falling under a foreign yoke, as it rescued them from their treacherous and sanguinary tyrants.

SWITZERLAND.

When we look to this country, we shall find that among the places most generally infected by the French madness was the Pays de Vaud, the most pleasant and fertile country belonging to the Canton of Berne, and as such most greedily desired by France. The consequence of this madness was the introduction of a French army among the once happy people, and the fraternal embrace. From that hour they have experienced nothing but misery and wretchedness. By the very last packets we have received accounts that the contributions imposed upon the inhabitants, have been so exorbitantly oppressive as to compel them to remonstrate with their friends and deliverers. The remonstrance is full of kindness and submission, the answer is at once tyrannical and insulting. The commander in Chief assures the brave inhabitants of the Pays de Vaud, that the great nation is their assured friend, but she must have an army for their protection; that army must be paid, and clothed, and victualled; nothing more was levied than what was necessary for those purposes; but be the contributions what they may, the money is spent among themselves, and so it may all come back to the first owners.

With this insolent and taunting answer the deluded inhabitants of the Pays de Vaud must be content. It is too late for them now to attempt to join the brave and independent part of their fellow citizens, who have flown to arms, preferring death to the domination of such tyrants, and setting at defiance all their menaces. Like the sheep in the fable, they must submit to whatever treatment the wolves may think proper to give them; for they listened to their deceitful insinuations against their faithful dogs, who were their guardians and protectors, and drove them from amongst them. They did not reflect that when they renounced the Government under which they had been so long happy; when they weakened their country by pulling down the higher orders, with whom they had been so long connected in the enjoyment of freedom, and of every thing that can make a society happy and flourishing, as far as human society can be so, and

* This is only mentioned to shew what complete thieves and robbers, these friends of mankind are.

and gave up these their natural defenders for strangers and foreigners, they would be entirely at the mercy of those foreigners, and be left without resource, should they play the same game with them, which they saw them playing with the nations around them. This they now find, when it is too late. And if they find it in the very beginning of their friendly connexion, how will it be, when, as was the case of the Dutch, the persons who now venture to remonstrate with those friends of the people throughout the world, shall be seized without warning, or notice, and either be put to death, or banished, and their property plundered, to indemnify the great nation for these acts of friendship and protection?

It has been already observed that these are facts that are known to all Europe. Now let any plain man compare these facts with what he daily hears advanced by French agents and their friends amongst us, and judge for himself what credit is due to the representations that are made of French protection, and French fraternity. Let him judge for himself what he is to expect should these friends of mankind once find a footing amongst us. Can their agents and emissaries promise greater things in their name, than were promised to the people of Flanders, of Holland, to Italy, to the disaffected Venetians, and the Pays de Vaud? Were not they told, as our people are told, that the French were to bring them freedom and happiness? that they were to break their chains, and deliver them from oppression? that there were to be no more public burdens, nor taxes, nor exactions from the moment their tree of liberty was raised? that the rich would be no longer above the poor, but that all should have equal rights, and equal property? All this they were promised, and, in one way indeed, the promise was observed. The rich and poor, certainly, were put on an equality, but it was an equality of plunder and misery. The rich were banished, and robbed of their estates; the clergy were proscribed, and their estates sold; but instead of the lower order getting the spoil divided amongst them as they expected, the French either seized them for the advantage of their generals, and officers, and commissaries, or they sold them for the support of their armies; and when the price of them was squandered away, these friends of the people came upon the farmers, rich and poor, for their corn, their horses, their stock, and upon the labourers for their work in every kind of drudgery to which they could force them. Now I would ask what prospect can the people of this country have that they shall be better treated? None; on the contrary, they must expect to be treated much more cruelly. These robbers have, now, no longer any other country to plunder. They have stripped and fleeced all the rest of Europe, and having no resources elsewhere, they must look
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for them here, we are the last to be devoured. It is a well known fact that the Directory have promised a free gift to the army, at the conclusion of the war, of ten hundred thousand million of livres. For this they have no funds at home. The lands belonging to the Crown, the lands belonging to the Church, the property of the Emigrants, the royal woods, have all been sold, and the purchase divided among the thousands of adventurers that sprung up one after another, in that wretched country, cutting each others throats, in endless succession, or exhausted by the demands of this army. Nothing then remains but the plunder of these Islands, and the hope of this is the only incitement the Directory have to offer to their soldiers to engage in an expedition, which they dislike from the dangers which they have to encounter. I would then, ask any man of common sense if it be likely, under such circumstances, that the French army would prefer their dupes in Ireland to themselves, or suffer any other persons to divide what they will account the price of all their toils and all their services? It is absurd to think so, and nothing but insatiation can make any person prefer to the testimony of these indisputable facts, the misrepresentations and made up stories of secret agents, the employers of whom are not so much as named to the poor ignorant people whom they mislead.

But at best, and supposing any man can be so weak as to believe that the French would make a difference between the Irish and every other people they have had to do with, and that they would be so generous as to come over at the hazard of their lives, merely to serve their dear brothers in Ireland, and to give them the blessing of their system, I would have that man think for a moment what that system is. I would ask him if under a system that encourages a subject to dethrone his prince, a vassal to murder and rob his lord, and a tenant to dispossess and plunder his landlord, any man can promise himself to keep what he has for an hour? Will not the same system authorise the needy shopkeeper to plunder the more wealthy tradesman, the *sculloag* to plunder the farmer; the cottier, the *sculloag*; and the labourer both? and when the plunderers thus become comparatively rich, and the plundered poor, must not the same work be begun again, and so all we shall gain by introducing French principles amongst us, will be, to be cutting each others throats for ever, and to have nothing amongst us but robbery, plunder and massacre. This is exactly what has been the case in France for the last seven years. They who first murdered or expelled the royal family, and the great lords, and the clergy and wealthy gentlemen, after rioting a little while in their ill got grains, were murdered or expelled in their turn by another set of adventurers, and so on from day to day, while the poor deluded people, who were fools
enough

enough to assist in carrying on this hellish plan, and rose up against their landlords and masters, and priests, found themselves not only not bettered, but a thousand times worse; seeing a few lawyers and attorneys, and newspaper printers, and school-masters, and apostate clergy, taking the place of the old proprietaries of the land, and using the tenantry ten times more oppressively than they ever had reason to complain of in the old times.

What then can equal the folly of wishing to see such a set of monsters come amongst us? or who that has a wife and family, or that has the common feelings of a human creature, will not see the necessity of setting his face against the wicked men that are going about the country deceiving and misleading the poor ignorant people, and of joining with his honest neighbour, of whatever description or religion he may be, in putting them down?

Should not the landholder join in this union? he is certain to be stripped of all he possesses; for the very first thing the agents of France promise is that he is to be destroyed.

Should not the farmer join in it? he is richer than his neighbour, and therefore, must be pulled down, and under the supposed system that is to be set up, a farmer with his cottier and his labourer is no more to be suffered to exist, than a prince and subject, a lord and his vassal, a landholder and his tenant, for all must be equal.

Should not the presbyterian join in it? Will the deists and atheists of France indulge him with the form of church government to which he is so much attached? Will he not find them as great enemies of the meeting house as to the church, since the name of Jesus Christ, which they are sworn to extinguish, is worshipped in both?

Will not the Roman Catholic join in it? Will the French leave him to the consolation of his religion, or its clergy, after having dethroned and banished the Pope, expelled all the cardinals and bishops, and while they consider his religion to be the same with what they call the dangerous superstition which they have abolished in France, and against which they shew the greatest enmity wherever they have power?

Will not even the little farmer and cottier and labourer join in it, when they know how those of their own class, notwithstanding their having begun by supporting the cause of the French, were afterwards treated by them in Flanders, and Holland, and Italy, and Switzerland, and wherever they have been received?

Let these things be made generally known among the people; let them be told what French fraternity and French protection really are. Their fraternal embrace is the hug of the bear, to squeeze to death and then devour: Their protection is the protection

fection of the lion hunting with the heifer, the stag and the sheep; he took one half of the game they had caught, as due to him in justice for his protection and assistance; and the other because he was the strongest, and would tear in pieces any of the others that should dare to resist or to complain.

And are these the friends for whom the people of this country are invited to change their present rulers and governors? Are these the men for whom we are to oppose, to massacre, to assassinate our landlords, our magistrates, our ministers, our neighbours and acquaintance, with whom we have lived quietly and contentedly all our lives?

What, in the name of God, has the introducing such a set of murderers and robbers amongst us, to do with our disputes amongst ourselves? Supposing that a Roman Catholic is discontented because he cannot sit in Parliament; how can his case be bettered, or his wishes advanced by those who will leave him no Parliament to sit in? Supposing the Dissenter dissatisfied because he cannot have his reform in the House of Commons: What has he to expect towards the gaining of his object from those who will leave him no House of Commons to reform? And yet, strange to think, it is of such questions as these that the agents of France take advantage to promote their own cause. They sower the Roman Catholic against the Protestant, and the Protestant against the Roman Catholic: They tell the Roman Catholic that the Protestant is to cut his throat, and the Protestant that he is to be massacred by the Roman Catholic, and both descriptions are their dupes, and play their game for them, by being exasperated and enflamed against each other. But when once they have made their own use of these jealousies and heart-burnings, they will laugh at the folly of both.—They will make them both feel when too late, that the estate of the Roman Catholic gentleman, the property and the haggard of the Roman Catholic farmer, and the cow of the Roman Catholic cottier are as good and as fair plunder as those of the Protestant of the same rank; and as to the religion of either, or any thing connected with it, what difference can be expected to be made between them by those who are the sworn enemies of all religion? who deny both God and his Christ? who will equally pull down the altar and the communion table? the King and the Pope? the church of England and the church of Rome, the priest and the parson?

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Be wise, therefore, my countrymen; be wise at the expence of others, that others may not be wise at your expence. Compare what French protection and French fraternity are, as promised to you, and as experienced by other nations, and judge for yourselves.